

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 060807Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9175

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS SPEAKS OUT ON ABORTION AND DIVORCE

1. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY IN MID-OCTOBER, BUT PUBLISHED NOV 5, MRS. MARCOS SAID QUOTE ABORTION, LIKE MARTIAL LAW, IS A VERY BAD WORD. YET THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES... BUT IF ABORTION AND DIVORCE COULD BE TREATED IN A SOPHISTICATED AND HUMANE MANNER AS OUR KIND OF MARTIAL LAW, THEN I WOULD BELIEVE IN THEM. UNQUOTE. MRS. MARCOS SAID THAT WHILE THE TWO TRENDS WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO THE PREDOMINENTLY CATHOLIC PHILIPPINES, SHE, AS A NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING LEADER, PREFERRED TO ADVOCATE PREVENTIVE RATHER THAN CORRECTIVE MEASURES. QUOTE WHAT IS TO BE DONE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, FOR DIVORCE AND ABORTION ARE PALLIATIVES, STOP-GAPS, BACK-UP SUPPORTS. I WOULD ADVOCATE PREVENTIVE RATHER THAN CORRECTIVE MEASURES. BUT I WILL NOT CATEGORICALLY SAY THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN DIVORCE, THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN ABORTION, FOR THESE MAY BE NECESSARY DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SITUATION, THE NEED. QNQUOTE.

2. ONLY KERIMA POLOTAN'S EVENING POST OF NOV 6 HAS CARRIED PNA INTERVIEW'S REFERENCES TO DIVORCE AND ABORTION. AP,  
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HOWEVER, ON NOVEMBER 5 REPORTED FULL SUBSTANCE OF HER

STATEMENTS ON DIVORCE AND ABORTION, AS WELL AS OTHER REMARKS,  
INCLUDING HOW TO HANDLE A DAUGHTER HAVING AN AFFAIR.

3. AMBASSADOR ASKED MRS. MARCOS ABOUT COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED  
TO HER BY AP NOV 5 CONCERNING DIVORCE AND ABORTION. HE NOTED  
THESE COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS AS FAR AS CHURCH CONCERNED. MRS.  
MARCOS AGREED THIS WAS POSSIBILITY BUT SAID SHE BELIEVED  
WHAT SHE SAID AND "SOMEONE HAD TO SAY IT."

4. INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED.

5. COMMENT: MRS. MARCOS'S PROVOCATIVE REMARKS WILL BE LIKE RED  
FLAG TO BULL AS FAR AS CHURCH CONCERNED. ARCHBISHOP SIN IS  
ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO LEGALIZATION OF DIVORCE AND CONSIDERS  
ABORTION "AN ABOMINATION," AS DO MOST FILIPONOS. IT WILL BE  
INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER SIN WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO REPROVE  
MRS. MARCOS FOR HER REMARKS AND, IF HE DOES, WHAT HER  
REACTION WILL BE. LABOR ATTACHE WILL SEE SIN NOV 10 AND  
WILL TRY TO DRAW HIM OUT. SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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